



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

## October - November 2015

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 423-1611

Dear Parent and Guardians,

The falling leaves and acorns have been crunching under my children's and my feet on recent mornings as we make our daily walk to the school bus. It's a time to smile together, thinking about the many exciting things that will come to them, and reviewing the daily after school plans that seem to keep our schedules busy and our minds and bodies invigorated. I imagine your mornings have been similar to mine.



It is my pleasure to welcome 39 new families to our school community, and four families returning to Southeast after a brief time away. We continue to be fortunate to have several of our new families who are University of Connecticut visiting scholars. One country that is particularly well represented in our new families is China. Southeast continues to have a diverse population of families from different cultures, ethnic backgrounds and religious affiliations. We feel quite lucky to be able to learn new traditions and customs through our young students. We are committed to making everyone feel welcome and a valued member of our school.

One initiative that you will most likely hear about in your November conferences in our implementation of a class meeting. We are following the Responsive Classroom approach in that we are working to create a school community of learners and friends. We practice greeting each other with a hello (sometimes in a different language) and then use the student or teacher's name. I ask that you maintain the same expectation at home as your children greet new people. They are quite capable, all the way down to our Pre-kindergarten students. In future newsletters I will describe the other parts of our class meetings. Many teachers have already commented that they see many exciting changes in our students through the teacher's focus on a variety of activities and lessons.



Our current fourth grade families received their Smarter Balanced test scores last week, the State of Connecticut's standardized testing, which was administered last May. We were quite pleased with our district and school results from last year's Grades 3 and 4. We outperformed most schools in CT (evidenced by an average of 24.5% point increase over math and English language arts averages) and we also outperformed our DRG comparison districts by an average of 7% in math and language arts. I am continuing to work with staff over the next few weeks to review student SBAC scores, in addition to the Fall classroom assessment results to gather a current academic picture of your child. We also continue to adjust our curriculum to utilize practices. If you have questions about how to read the reports, or questions about the performance of Southeast School, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your child's teacher.

Yours truly,  
Lauren Rodriguez, Principal

## Calendar of Events

### October

Oct. 21..... School Bus Driver Appreciation Day



Oct. 22..... 3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club

Oct. 31..... Halloween



### November

Nov. 1..... Daylight Savings Time ends



Nov. 2..... 6:30 PM- PTO Meeting

Nov. 9..... Picture Retake Day

Nov. 10..... School Psychologist Appreciation Day



Nov. 11..... **NO SCHOOL** -Veterans' Day Holiday

Nov. 18..... Young Authors' Day

Nov. 19..... 3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club



Nov. 20..... School wide Thanksgiving Luncheon

Nov. 23..... **12:45 Early Closing - No Preschool Classes**  
6-8 PM Parent-Teacher Conferences by appt.

Nov. 24..... **12:45 Early Closing - No Preschool Classes**  
2-5 PM Parent-Teacher Conferences by appt.

Nov. 25..... **12:45 Early Closing - No Preschool Classes**

Nov. 26..... **NO SCHOOL** -Thanksgiving Holiday



Nov. 27..... **NO SCHOOL**—Thanksgiving Holiday

## DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER



The weather is changing and temperatures are dropping. Dressing your child appropriately for the weather is important. Students will be sent outdoors for recess, weather permitting. It is important for the students to go out in the fresh air and exercise.

As fall turns to winter, please be sure your child has a winter coat, gloves or mittens and hat. For your child's comfort please include boots, snow pants and an extra pair of dry socks when there is snow on the ground.

*Thank you for your extra effort.*

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793 Please call by 9:00 AM if your child will be absent or tardy



### SCHOOL CUSTODIAN'S DAY

On Friday, October 2, 2015 Southeast School celebrated School Custodian's Day. Staff and students honored our two custodians, Mr. Streeter and Mr. Jenks for all of their hard work and dedication to making our school a more beautiful place. Students and staff wrote thank you notes and decorated their office door with white lights. We feel so fortunate to have these two gentlemen on our staff. Thank you once again Mr. Streeter and Mr. Jenks for your commitment to our school!

### Savory Samples at Southeast School

What a great night! The school was looking very festive and "the table was set" for a wonderful evening of sampling very unique, delicious recipes from countries covering four continents. About 100 Southeast family members and staff came together on September 29<sup>th</sup> to taste generous helpings of savory foods from more than 25 different nations. It was truly a tribute to the diversity of our Southeast family!



Many thanks to all who came and to all who helped out behind the scenes. Your generous contributions made this night a true celebration. It was such a pleasure to share food, music and conversation with such a lovely crowd.

### Great News for Parents of English Language Learners!

Our Southeast School website has a translator for many languages. Just go to the website, scroll down to the bottom right and "Select a Language".

[www.mansfieldct.gov/content/11167/default.aspx](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/11167/default.aspx)

Free English lessons for adults are available at the public library and at EO Smith High School. For more information go to this website: [www.vrabe.com/content/mansfield.asp](http://www.vrabe.com/content/mansfield.asp)



### Music News: Child of the World

In this year's musical Child of the World, we celebrate our role as citizens of a planet we share with others, in the hope that we will all enjoy a more beautiful, kind and caring Earth. We will be talking and singing about five character traits that are essential in order to be good world citizens— respect, honesty, courage, compassion and responsibility. Students in grades 3 and 4 will be featured. Our performance date is yet to be determined.

### Photo Retakes—Nov. 9th

If your child was absent on photo day and you would like to order pictures, please pick up an order form from the school office or order on line at [www.coffeepond.com](http://www.coffeepond.com)



If you are having your child's picture retaken, please return the photos in the original envelope to the photographer on picture day. The class picture is yours to keep.

Questions? Email: [lifeguards@coffeepond.com](mailto:lifeguards@coffeepond.com) or call 800-632-2323



### Snack Time

Please don't forget to pack a snack for your child. Snack time is part of most classroom routines. Children are encouraged to bring healthy snacks such as fruit, vegetables, juice, etc. in non-breakable containers.

Snacks are not supplied by the teachers or the school.



### Congratulations Mr. Hendricks!

One of our Southeast own has attained a very prestigious honor! Mr. James Hendricks, a third grade teacher, has been a volunteer with the American Red Cross since May 2013. This summer he received the **Connecticut and Rhode Island Region Disaster Services Volunteer of the Year** award. Mr. Hendricks was selected from over 3,000 volunteers in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

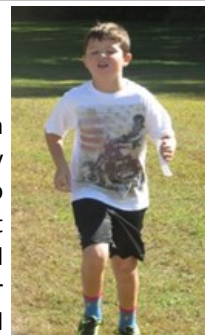
He has been promoted five times in the Red Cross organization and now works on the Disaster Leadership Team as the Coordinator of Disaster Volunteers for over 300 disaster volunteers in Eastern Connecticut. He assists new volunteers with beginning their Red Cross "journey" and experienced volunteers with volunteer development and writing their own Red Cross "story." In late summer, he was promoted again to the local National Deployments Team and now recruits disaster volunteers from Connecticut and Rhode Island to deploy to disaster relief operations across the country. Mr. Hendricks has deployed 15 people since August to the wildfires in California, Typhoon Soudelor in Saipan, tornado and flood damage in Texas, and most recently to the 1,000 year flood in South Carolina.

Even though he devotes a lot of his time to these two areas, he also responds as a Disaster Action Team Leader and Supervisor-on-Call to home fires in our area to help families displaced from their homes and who have lost all of their belongings, installs free smoke detectors as part of the National Home Fire Prevention Campaign, is a Disaster Instructor helping to teach volunteers different skills to complete their volunteer jobs, and a Disaster Community Educator teaching adults and children about how they can prepare themselves for disasters. Amazingly, all of this happens during his "off" hours from being a teacher at Southeast. The Southeast Community would like to congratulate Mr. Hendricks on this spectacular distinction.

### Southeasters are on the Run!

#### Recess Mileage Club

Mileage Club has begun for the fall and it is a huge success. We are grateful for the many parent volunteers who come to work and to support our runners. Mileage Club for First and Second Graders is on Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:30. Mileage Club for Third and Fourth Graders is on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00. We are pleased with our participation and progress so far. Ask your child to show you their toe tokens!



#### Southeast Running Club

Southeast Running Club (for Third and Fourth graders) is off to a great start. We now have 75 members who choose to stay after school on Fridays and RUN! Big thanks to Katherine Davidson, Andrea Lennon and Diana Peltier for their commitment to our Running Club. We are also grateful to our parent volunteers who also choose to come to school on Fridays and RUN!

The goal for students in Grade 1-4 is to complete 10 cards this school year.



### CT Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA)

Physical fitness is an important component of Connecticut's overall education program goals. The emphasis of the CPFA is on health related fitness, which focuses on reducing the risk of injury and disease. The test items are: back-saver sit and reach, curl-ups, right-angle push-ups, and a one-mile run/walk. All students in Grades 3 & 4 will be tested.

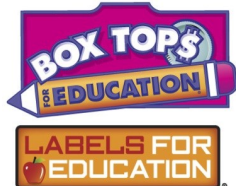


If you have any questions or concerns about the CPFA, please contact Betsy Parker, Physical Education Teacher as soon as possible by phone 860-423-1611 ext. 7658 or email at [parkerbb@mansfieldct.org](mailto:parkerbb@mansfieldct.org).



### Notes to Teachers

When sending notes to teachers for parent pick-up, etc. please make sure that the paper you write the note on is large enough to be found by the teacher. Tiny scraps of paper are often overlooked or get lost.



Thank you for all the Box Tops and Labels for education.

Keep them coming!



We know that Southeast families already know the benefits of reading to children at bedtime-or anytime! Have you considered exploring math at bedtime? Recently, a study was published in *Science Magazine* that showed that first grade students who interacted with their caregivers for a few minutes a day in math showed significant growth in their math skills and less math anxiety in one year. The program used in the study is called Bedtime Math and is available in a few different forms. You can get it as a FREE app on iTunes and Android. You can also get a daily Bedtime Math email with an engaging photo and a math question (with answers) for four levels--wee ones, little kids, big kids, the sky's the limit. You can visit their website [www.bedtimemath.org](http://www.bedtimemath.org) for archived problems, information about books, parent blogs, social media and resources. The full article is at <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/350/6257/196.full>

Here is a sample Bedtime Math email:

These wacky flowers look like a picture from a Dr. Seuss book. But they're real flowers -- not flowers that can grow, but real flower sculptures. Built by artist [Dan Corson](#), they "live" at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle. They stand 40 feet tall, and they're green in more ways than one: Each flower center has little solar panels on it, which catch the sun's light and use that energy to light up the flowers at night. Best of all, the flowers sing: they have sensors that tell them when people walk near them, causing the flowers to play musical notes. That's why Dan named them "Sonic Bloom." So even though you can't smell these flowers, they're making up for it by doing a lot of other things!

**Wee ones:** If you make all 5 flowers sing, what numbers would you say to count them?

**Little kids:** If you swing from the petals and grab the 2nd one, then the 4th one, then the 6th...which petal do you grab next? **Bonus:** Each flower is 20 feet across! If you lay across the top of it, how many feet wider than you would it be? (Find your height to the nearest foot.)

**Big kids:** If the sun is out from 6:00 in the morning until 8:00 at night, how many hours do the flowers collect sunlight that day? **Bonus:** Each flower has 3 circles of solar panels: 10 in the innermost ring, 16 in the next ring, and 23 in the outside ring around them. How many panels is that in total?

**The sky's the limit:** If there are 5 flowers and by waving your arms you make 3 of them sing, how many different possible trios of flowers could you get to sing? (Don't worry about the order, just which ones are in the set.)

Answers:

**Wee ones:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

**Little kids:** The 8th petal. **Bonus:** Different for everyone...subtract your height in feet from 20.

**Big kids:** 14 hours. **Bonus:** 49 cells.

**The sky's the limit:** There are 10 trios. Choosing 3 of them gives the same number of sets as leaving out 2, so you can just count up the possible pairs to leave out. If they're lettered A, B, C, D and E, you have 4 pairs with A (AB, AC, AD, AE), then 3 new pairs using B (BC, BD, BE), then 2 pairs with C (CD, CE), and finally DE. That gives us  $4+3+2+1=10$ .



## 4th Grade Visits Florence Griswold Museum



On Friday October 9th the 4th Graders traveled to the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme for their annual Art Field Trip! Florence Griswold rented out rooms in her beautiful home along the Lieutenant River to American Impressionist artists who became known as the Lyme Art Colony in the late 1800s. Students toured the Griswold home; saw how the artists lived and viewed some of their paintings. They also got to paint outdoors like the Impressionists did! Viewing

*Whimsical Kingdoms*, a special display of over 30 'fairy sized' installations located over the grounds was amazing!. A big thank you to the teachers and parents who helped to make this trip a great success!



## School Bell and Tardiness

The morning bell rings at 8:55 to start off our school day. Students should be in their classrooms by 8:55.

If you choose to drive your child to school and arrive after the morning bell, your child will be marked tardy and must be signed in at the office by a parent. Failure to sign your child in may result in a marked absence.

Please remember that parents bringing children to school should park in the designated areas of the parking lot on the side of the building and walk with their children into the building at the Arts Wing entrance. For safety reasons, we cannot allow children to be dropped off in the parking lot.

### School Hours

Grades K-4.....8:55 to 3:30  
AM PreK.....8:55 to 11:45  
PM PreK.....12:50 to 3:30



Students who are late for school interrupt the classroom and miss valuable instruction and work.

**PUNCTUALITY IS VERY IMPORTANT.**

Please allow extra time getting your children to school in the morning.

## Guidelines for When to Keep Your Child Home

**COLDS** and runny noses are rampant in the winter months. If your child is sneezing and/or coughing excessively, they belong at home. Often times children will feel well when they get up but will become exhausted and not feeling well by mid morning due to excessive coughing or the stress of their illness. It's important to allow your child the extra rest they need to get well. Fluids help the immune system flush the body. Instruct your child on proper use of tissues for coughing, sneezing and nose blowing. Children should also be instructed on good hand washing techniques, as more colds are spread by contaminated hands than by infected droplets in the air. Remind children to keep their hands away from their faces.



**FEVER** The child's temperature should be normal for 24 hours before sending a child to school. If your child has a fever in the evening they should not come to school the next morning; fever may occur again in the afternoon.

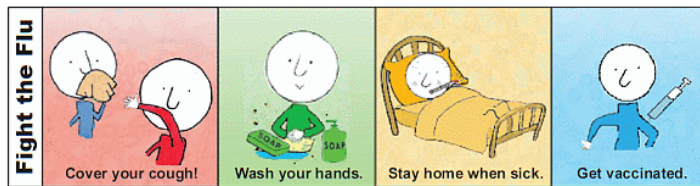


**VOMITING** If your child vomits during the night, do not send him to school the next day. He should rest and be put on a liquid or soft diet. Child must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.

**DIARRHEA** Loose stools have many causes. Child must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. If diarrhea persists or is accompanied by other symptoms, consult your physician.

**EARACHES** Hearing is an important sense for learning. Earaches should never be ignored. Keep your child home and contact your doctor. If there is ear discharge, with or without pain, notify your doctor for evaluation.

**STREP THROAT** A child with a strep throat who has been on antibiotics for 24 hours may return to school.



## Be Flu Smart.....

This time of year, it's important to brush up on the symptoms of Influenza, and what you can do to safeguard yourselves and your families.

Influenza is a viral infection that can make you feel very sick. It is generally spread from infected droplets in coughs or sneezes. Symptoms generally come on suddenly and include: fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headaches, and fatigue. (some people may also experience vomiting and diarrhea. This is more common in children than adults).

The best treatment for the flu is prevention. Unless contraindicated, individuals should receive a flu vaccination each year during the fall. Generally, flu season peaks from March to November. It's also important to wash your hands regularly, eat healthy foods, get plenty of rest, and avoid exposure to those that may be sick.

There are antiviral medications that may shorten the duration of the flu and lessen the severity of the symptoms. If you have flu like symptoms, you should contact your health care professional to discuss your options.

Go to [www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/index.htm) to find out more information.



## Reminder:

Please call the attendance line by 9:00 am if your child will be absent or late for school.

423-2793

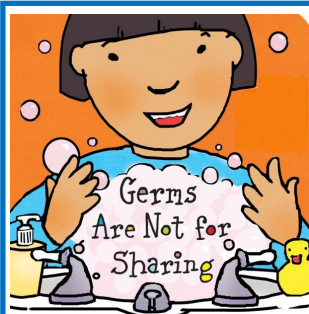
## Chemical and Fragrance Sensitivity

If you feel ill when around fragrances, cleaning products, plastics and other products that have strong smells, you may have a condition called chemical sensitivity. Symptoms can range from headaches, dizziness, and breathing difficulties to almost total incapacitation in serious cases.



We have some students and staff members with this condition and ask that you please be aware of your use of perfume and heavily scented body washes or lotions when you are going to be in the school building. Students should not wear perfume or cologne to school.

Thank you



Any questions regarding return to school after illness, call the school nurse.

Ingrid Hanka, R.N.

423-2793

Health Room/Attendance Line

For information regarding General Health Policies, refer to pg. 33 of The Public Schools of Mansfield Parent Handbook.